

About Brandon Wilson

BRANDON WILSON is the Lowell Thomas award-winning author of a series of four travel adventure books, a photographer, explorer and adventure-travel writer whose stories have appeared in international anthologies, magazines and newspapers, and across the Internet. A voracious explorer of nearly 100 countries, he's particularly passionate about inspiring others with the possibility of discovery through long distance trekking.

Born in western Pennsylvania, he developed wanderlust at an early age, and has spent much of his life traveling when not living in Hawaii.



His fascination with what he calls “slow, deliberate travel” began when he and his wife Cheryl became the first western couple to trek a trail 650-miles across the Himalayan Plains from Lhasa, Tibet to Kathmandu in 1992. The peripatetic writer has now thru-hiked ten of the world's great long-distance trails, including the Camino de Santiago twice and Via de la Plata across Spain, as well as St. Olav's Way across Norway. He was the first American to hike the 1150-mile Via Francigena from England to Rome, and in 2006, he and a friend re-blazed the 2600-mile route of the First Crusades from France to Jerusalem on a walk for peace, naming it the Templar Trail.

Their adventure was chronicled in **Along the Templar Trail**, the 2009 Lowell Thomas Gold Award-winner for **Best Travel Book** (Society of American Travel Writers Foundation) and a *ForeWord Magazine* **Book of the Year Finalist** (adventure/recreation). Other books in his adventure series include: **Dead Men Don't Leave Tips: Adventures X Africa** (2005); and **Yak Butter Blues** (2004, 2nd edition 2005), which won an **IPPY Award**. **Over the Top & Back Again: Hiking X the Alps**, his Via Alpina trekking book, will be published in late 2010.

Wilson has been interviewed as an adventure travel expert by worldwide media, including:

- *The Joey Reynolds Show*, WOR (New York)
- *Talk Radio with Michael Dixon*, WGN (Chicago)
 - *MSNBC Travel with Christopher Elliott*
- *“Get Serious! with Tina Vindum”* (San Francisco)
 - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
 - *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*
 - ORF-TV (Austria)
 - *Nice Matin* (France)
 - CNS Rome (Italy)
 - *Gudbrandsdølen Gagningen* (Norway)
- *Balkan Bulgarian Television*, Sofia (Bulgaria)
 - *Glas Public Voice*, Belgrade (Serbia)
 - *Alanya TV Nightly News* (Turkey)

Life When Hell Freezes Over, his story about his year of purgatory spent living in the Arctic, appeared in **They Lived to Tell the Tale: True Stories of Adventure from the Legendary Explorers Club** (The Lyons Press/Globe Pequot, 2007). He was also honored to write the introduction to **On a Donkey's Back**, a collection of poetry and paintings by and about the lives of Nepalese porters, (Yileen Press, 2008).

His photos have won awards from *National Geographic Traveler* and *Islands* magazines. His 50-page photo essay on Spain's Via de la Plata was featured in **Naïve & Abroad: Spain, Limping**

600 Miles Through History by Marcus Wilder (2008).

A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and a member of the prestigious Explorers Club, he's been living in northern Italy in the Alpine Südtirol while working on this latest book.